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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Merseburg

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 13 March to 4 April 1952 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 25 April 1952

REFERENCES 25X1 [REDACTED]

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REMARKS

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1. Upon the departure of major contingents of troops from the Flak Kaserne on Ceusaerstrasse, Merseburg (M 52/D 91), the installation still quartered about 500 troops on 4 April. They wore red-bordered black epaulets. Three prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns left the installation on 28 March, and 2 prime movers towing 122-mm field howitzers left on 4 April. Numerous trucks with billeting equipment, ration supply and clothing and ambulances were seen communicating between the Flak Kaserne and the Halle (M 52/D 92) military post.

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that, prior to the departure of the troops into the summer camp, there were 13 to 15 x 100-mm AT guns at the installation. Ten to 12 AT guns were seen departing with the unit and 3 AT guns were seen in the installation on 28 March. Ten 122-mm howitzers were seen with the unit prior to the departure into the summer camp; and 8 field howitzers left with the unit. The four AT guns of 50-mm to 70-mm, which were noticed at the installation before the departure of the troops, were also noticed with the departing troops. After the unit left, AT guns of that caliber were no longer seen.

2. On 18 and 20 March, three motorized convoys, each of about 200 trucks, sedans and special vehicles carrying troops with red-bordered black epaulets, were moving along the Berlin-Muennberg autobahn off Merseburg. [REDACTED]

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3. On 27 March, prime movers [REDACTED] each towing a 100-mm AT gun and carrying about 12 men left the Flak Kaserne in Merseburg. Telephone sections and individual groups of soldiers with battery commander's telescopes practiced on the premises of Merseburg airfield on 1 April.

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- * Comment. The information by these two sources and by another source of a report on rail movements indicates that only components of the artillery unit of the 38th (?) AT Arty Brig of the XXIX Gds Mz Rifle Corps from the Flak Kaserne in Merseburg have been absent from the post since 12 March 1952, probably at Ohrdruf. [REDACTED] The number of artillery

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☐ Declassified

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pieces stated in the present report do not indicate organization or composition of the unit. [redacted] the 136th Gds Mortar Regt of the 21st Gds Mecz Div which, however, is carried in Halle. The truck traffic between Halle and Merseburg is indicative of possible connection between these two posts. On 15 March, a train with a component of the mortar regiment, which [redacted] reportedly went from Ohrdruf to Merseburg.

This information supports the aforementioned hypothesis. [redacted]

Previously, no mortars have been noticed in Merseburg.

** [redacted] Comment. The movements are probably linked with the completion of the command post exercise in Naumburg.

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